



Oifig an Stiúrthoir Cúnta,  
Cúram Príomhúil Rochtain agus Comhthathú,

Seomra 243, Ospidéal Dr Steevens,  
Lána Steevens, Baile Átha Cliath 8.  
D08 W2A8.

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10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Deputy Kerrane,  
Dáil Éireann,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ 38745/24 To ask the Minister for Health if he will examine the possibility of HSE audiologists conducting visits to HSE-owned nursing homes to ensure that residents can have their hearing checked and looked after; and if he will make a statement on the matter.**

**- Claire Kerrane**

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Dear Deputy Kerrane,

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question (PQ 38745/24) which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

The HSE audiology service provides help with hearing loss for children and adults. The audiology service is free for all children under 18 and eligible adults in Ireland. As of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, to 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 - 21,357 new patients were referred to the Community Audiology Services in the same period, 49,272 patients have received treatment.

The HSE currently provides appointments for residents of nursing homes in the relevant Community Audiology services when referred by their GP, this ensures assessments are performed in high quality sound booths. Treatment is carried out according to clinical priority and availability of resources.

I trust this is of assistance.

**Seán McArt**

General Manager

Primary Care Access & Integration